

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of claims:

Listing of claims

1. (currently amended) A hole plug for blocking a hole, comprising:
 - a head portion having a back surface,
 - a foot portion extending from the back surface of the head portion to be inserted into the hole, said foot portion including a plurality of plate members extending from the back surface of the head portion and arranged circularly with a space between two of the plate members, each of said plate members having an engaging step portion at a base close to the head portion for engaging the hole,
 - a cylindrical column projecting from the back surface of the head portion inside the plate members, and
 - a plurality of supporting means, each supporting means being disposed between the cylindrical column and each of the plate members so that the cylindrical column is connected to each of the plate members through each of the supporting means and the supporting means supports and suppresses the plate member from bending inwardly.
2. (original) A hole plug according to claim 1, wherein said plate members are arranged circularly so that the foot portion has a cylindrical shape.
3. (original) A hole plug according to claim 1, wherein each of said supporting means is formed at a position closer to the base than a top portion thereof.
4. (currently amended) A hole plug for blocking a hole, comprising:
 - a head portion having a back surface,
 - a foot portion extending from the back surface of the head portion to be inserted into the hole, said foot portion including a plurality of plate members extending from the back surface of the

head portion and arranged circularly with a space between two of the plate members, each of said plate members having an engaging step portion at a base close to the head portion for engaging the hole,

a cylindrical column projecting from the back surface of the head portion inside the plate members, and

a plurality of supporting means, each supporting means being disposed between the cylindrical column and each of the plate members so that the cylindrical column is connected to each of the plate members through each of the supporting means and the supporting means supports and suppresses the plate member from bending inwardly, each of said supporting means being integrated with the back surface of the head portion.

5. (canceled)

6. (original) A hole plug according to claim 1, wherein each of said supporting means is formed in a wavy plate shape in a radial direction and extending from the back surface of the head portion.

7. (original) A hole plug according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of guide means disposed between two of the plate members and extending from the back surface of the head portion, each of said guide means having a length longer than that of each of the plate members.

8-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A hole plug for blocking a hole, comprising:

a head portion having a back surface,

a foot portion extending from the back surface of the head portion to be inserted into the hole, said foot portion including a plurality of plate members extending from the back surface of the head portion and arranged circularly with a space between two of the plate members, each of said plate members having an engaging

step portion at a base close to the head portion for engaging the hole,

a plurality of guide means disposed between two of the plate members and extending from the back surface of the head portion, each of said guide means having a length longer than that of each of the plate members,

a column projecting from the back surface of the head portion inside the plate members, said column being integrally connected to the guide means to hold and support the guide means, and

a plurality of supporting means disposed between the column and each of the plate members for connecting the column and the plate member to prevent the plate member from bending inwardly.

11. (original) A hole plug according to claim 10, wherein said supporting means is formed in a wavy plate shape in a radial direction and extending from the back surface of the head portion.

12. (original) A hole plug according to claim 1, wherein said head portion has a plate shape and an outer periphery inclined toward the foot portion.

13. (previously presented) A hole plug according to claim 6, wherein said wavy plate has a height less than heights of the column and the plate member.

14. (new) A hole plug according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of plate members arranged circularly are coaxially arranged with the cylindrical column, and said plurality of supporting means is arranged to substantially extend radially outwardly from the cylindrical column.

15. (new) A hole plug according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of plate members arranged circularly are coaxially arranged with the cylindrical column, and said plurality of supporting means is arranged to substantially extend radially outwardly from the cylindrical column.